

**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
ON CLEAN ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES AND MONITORING
October 1993**

Guidance on Monitoring

o **Use of Clean Sampling and Analytical Techniques**

Pages 98-108 of the WER guidance document (Appendix L of the *Water Quality Standards Handbook-Second Edition*) provides some general guidance on the use of clean techniques. The Office of Water recommends that this guidance be used by States and Regions as an interim step while the Office of Water prepares more detailed guidance.

o **Use of Historical DMR Data**

With respect to effluent or ambient monitoring data reported by an NPDES permittee on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR), the certification requirements place the burden on the permittee for collecting and reporting quality data. The certification regulation at 40 CFR 122.22(d) requires permittees, when submitting information, to state: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Permitting authorities should continue to consider the information reported in DMRs to be true, accurate, and complete as certified by the permittee. Under 40 CFR 122.41(l)(8), however, as soon as the permittee becomes aware of new information specific to the effluent discharge that calls into question the accuracy of the DMR data, the permittee must submit such information to the permitting authority. Examples of such information include a new finding that the reagents used in the laboratory analysis are contaminated with trace levels of metals, or a new study that the sampling equipment imparts trace metal contamination. This information must be specific to the discharge and based on actual measurements rather than extrapolations from reports from other facilities. Where a permittee submits information supporting the contention that the previous data are questionable and the permitting authority agrees with the findings of the information, EPA expects that permitting authorities will consider such information in determining appropriate enforcement responses.

In addition to submitting the information described above, the permittee also must develop procedures to assure the collection and analysis of quality data that are true, accurate, and complete. For example, the permittee may submit a revised quality assurance plan that describes the specific procedures to be undertaken to reduce or eliminate trace metal contamination.